AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended): A method for accelerating nerve regeneration in a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of a fatty acid compound ~~excluding retinoic acid and a prostaglandin compound~~, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, provided that the fatty acid compound is not a retinoic acid or a prostaglandin compound.

22. (currently amended): A method for culturing a cell for transplant, which comprises adding an effective amount of a fatty acid compound excluding retinoic acid and a prostaglandin compound, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof to a medium comprising a nerve stem cell for transplant, a nerve precursor cell for transplant or a nerve cell for transplant, provided that the fatty acid compound is not a retinoic acid or a prostaglandin compound.

23-24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): A medicament which comprises a combination of a fatty acid compound excluding retinoic acid and a prostaglandin compound, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof with at least one selected from an acetylcholine esterase inhibitor, a nicotinic receptor regulator, a β secretase inhibitor, a γ secretase inhibitor, a β amyloid protein aggregation inhibitor, a β amyloid vaccine, a β amyloid protease, a brain function activator, a dopamine receptor agonist, a monoamine oxidase inhibitor, an anticholinergic drug, a catechol-O-methyltransferase inhibitor, a drug for treating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a drug for treating

hyperlipidemia, a drug for treating abnormal behavior and/or poriomania accompanied with progress of dementia, an apoptosis inhibitor, a drug for accelerating nerve differentiation and/or regeneration, an antihypertensive drug, a drug for treating diabetes, an antidepressant drug, an antianxiety drug, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, a disease modifying antirheumatic drug, a TNF inhibitor, a MAP kinase inhibitor, a steroid drug, a sex hormone derivative, parathyroid hormone and a calcium acceptor antagonist, provided that the fatty acid compound is not a retinoic acid or a prostaglandin compound.

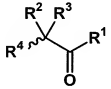
26. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is an unsaturated fatty acid compound.

27. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is a saturated fatty acid compound.

28. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is a branched chain fatty acid compound.

29. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is a linear or branched chain fatty acid compound having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms.

30. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the fatty acid compound is represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 represents hydroxyl; R^2 and R^3 each independently represents (a) hydrogen, (b) chlorine, (c) C3-10 alkyl, (d) C3-10 alkenyl, (e) C2-10 alkoxy, (f) C2-10 alkylthio, (g) C3-7

cycloalkyl, (h) phenyl, (i) phenoxy, (j) (C2-10 alkyl substituted with one or two chorine atom(s))-CH_2-, (k) (C1-5 alkyl substituted with one or two substituent(s) selected from C1-4 alkoxy, C3-7 cycloalkyl, phenyl and phenoxy)-CH_2-, (l) (C1-10 alkyl in which one carbon atom is substituted with 1 to 3 fluorine atom(s))-CH_2-, or (m) oxidized C3-10 alkyl, or R^2 and R^3 are taken together to represent C3-10 alkylidene; and R^4 represents C2-3 alkyl or oxidized C2-3 alkyl.

31. (previously presented): The method according to claim 30, wherein the fatty acid compound is (1) 2-propyloctanoic acid, (2) (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid, (3) (2S)-2-propyloctanoic acid, (4) 2-propylpentanoic acid, (5) (2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid, (6) (2R,7R)-7-hydroxyl-2-propyloctanoic acid, (7) (2R,7S)-7-hydroxyl-2-propyloctanoic acid, or (8) (2R)-8-hydroxyl-2-propyloctanoic acid.

32. (previously presented): The method according to claim 31, wherein the fatty acid compound is (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid.

33. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, which is useful for regenerating a nerve tissue or a neural function.

34. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, which is useful for accelerating grafting, differentiating, proliferating and/or maturing of a stem cell, a nerve precursor cell or a nerve cell.

35. (previously presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein the stem cell is an embryonic stem cell, a myeloid stem cell or a nerve stem cell.

36. (previously presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein the stem cell, the nerve precursor cell or the nerve cell is an endogenous cell.

37. (previously presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein the stem cell, the nerve precursor cell or the nerve cell is a transplant cell.

38. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, which is useful for inducing a nerve cell from a mesenchymal cell, a bone marrow stromal cell or a glia cell.

39. (previously presented): The method according to claim 38, wherein the glia cell is an astrocyte.

40. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the nerve is a central nerve or a peripheral nerve.

41. (previously presented): The method according to claim 40, wherein the central nerve is a cerebral nerve, a spinal nerve or an optic nerve.

42. (previously presented): The method according to claim 40, wherein the peripheral nerve is a motor nerve or a sensory nerve.

43. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, which is useful for culture of a nerve stem cell for transplant, a nerve precursor cell for transplant or a nerve cell for transplant.

44. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, which is useful for supplying neurotrophy.

45. (new): A method for accelerating nerve regeneration in a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof,

whereby induction of a nerve cell from an astrocyte is accelerated.